United Nations A/57/531/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 86 (c)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: culture and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 86 (see A/57/531, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 17th, 23rd, 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 24 October, 1 November and 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.17, 23, 42 and 43).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.11

2. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Kyrgyzstan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Australia, Belarus, Belgium Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Year of Kyrgyz Statehood" (A/C.2/57/L.11). Subsequently, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Kuwait, the Philippines, Qatar, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/57/531 and Add.1-5.

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3. At the 23rd meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.11 (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 11 December, the representative of Germany made a statement regarding the sponsorship of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/57/SR.43).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.13 and A/C.2/57/L.63

5. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Culture and development" (A/C.2/57/L.13), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998 and 55/192 of 20 December 2000 on culture and development,

"*Encouraged* by the positive international response to the results of the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development and of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/8 of 21 November 2001 that proclaimed 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/22 of 4 November 1998 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and 56/6 of 9 November 2001 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations containing the Programme of Action and objectives, principles and participants thereof, and recognizing that, in light of recent events, the United Nations should give greater weight and visibility to the theme of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, since the protection of cultural diversity is closely linked to the larger framework of the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and its ability to achieve genuine mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation,

"*Encouraged* by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Summit at Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, also adopted by the Summit on 4 September 2002, which urges the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among the world's civilizations and peoples, irrespective of race, disabilities, religion, language, culture and tradition,

"*Emphasizing* the need to enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global coexistence,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on resolution 55/192 of 20 December 2000, entitled 'Culture and development';

"2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the adoption by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the medium-term strategy for 2002-2007, which directs the work of the organization upon two cross-cutting themes, namely, the eradication of poverty, and the contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and the establishment of the society of knowledge, and is also based upon the notion that culture may contribute effectively to the reduction of poverty;

"3. *Endorses* the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session on 2 November 2001, in which cultural diversity is characterized as 'the common heritage of humanity', and encourages its acknowledgement and observance as such, and also endorses the main lines of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Declaration appended thereto;

"4. *Proclaims* 21 May as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, echoing the World Day for Cultural Development commemorated during the World Decade for Cultural Development;

"5. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations:

"(a) To ensure, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the implementation of the Action Plan of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity;

"(b) To implement the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly in resolutions 53/243 A and B of 13 September 1999;

"(c) To implement the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations contained in section B of resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001;

"(d) To implement relevant provisions on cultural diversity of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, adopted at the Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002;

"(e) To strengthen international cooperation and solidarity with a view to enabling all countries, particularly developing countries, to:

"(i) Gain access to new technologies;

"(ii) Be helped in mastering information technologies with a view to encouraging the production and safeguarding the dissemination of diversified content;

"(iii) Establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international levels, in the face of the current imbalance in the flow and exchange of cultural goods at the global level;

"(f) To acknowledge the right of the members of all civilizations to preserve and develop their cultural heritage within their own societies, thus

encouraging the strengthening of domestic policies in the fields of protection, incentive and promotion of the various cultures, mainly the most vulnerable;

"(g) To promote policies pertaining to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, particularly taking into account resolution 56/8, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November 2001, whereby 2002 was proclaimed the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;

"(h) To assess the interconnection between culture and development and the elimination of poverty in the context of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

"(i) To raise public awareness of the abundance of cultural diversity and, particularly, encourage through education and the media, knowledge of the positive value of cultural diversity, inter alia, as regards languages;

"(j) Within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and based on the main lines of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, to strengthen the efforts towards the prioritization, with respect to the adoption of national policies, of full respect for the natural resources of indigenous people and acknowledgement of their cultural rights;

"6. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its work to promote greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development and the important role of the information and communication technologies in this relationship;

"7. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in conjunction, as appropriate, with other relevant United Nations bodies and multilateral development institutions, to continue to provide support, upon request, to developing countries, in particular as regards national capacity-building and access to the information and communication technologies, for the implementation of international cultural conventions, including conservation of heritage and protection of cultural property, and for the restitution of cultural property, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/97 of 14 December 2001, entitled 'Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin';

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies and multilateral development institutions, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution that contains proposals for the close follow-up of the implementation of the resolutions referred to above."

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Culture and development" (A/C.2/57/L.63), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.13.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.63 (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.63, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Year of Kyrgyz Statehood

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Recalling also its resolution 49/129 of 19 December 1994 on the Commemoration of the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic, *Manas*,

Recalling further its resolution 56/8 of 21 November 2001 on the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002,

Stressing the importance of promoting education and raising public awareness in order to foster respect for national cultures, the cultural heritage of the world and civilizational diversity, which is essential for strengthening global peace and implementing international cooperation,

Noting the richness of Kyrgyz culture and its national, regional and international significance,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to declare 2003 as the Year of Kyrgyz Statehood and to organize activities in celebration of the Year;

2. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international and intergovernmental organizations, as well as regional and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to take part in the events being organized by the Kyrgyz Republic to celebrate the year 2003.

Draft resolution II
Culture and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998 and 55/192 of 20 December 2000 on culture and development,

Encouraged by the positive international response to the results of the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development and of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998,

Recalling its resolution 56/8 of 21 November 2001, by which it proclaimed 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/22 of 4 November 1998 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and 56/6 of 9 November 2001 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations containing the Programme of Action[1] and objectives, principles and participants[2] thereof, and recognizing that, in light of recent events, the United Nations should give greater weight and visibility to the theme of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, since the protection of cultural diversity is closely linked to the larger framework of the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and its ability to achieve genuine mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation,

Encouraged by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3] adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] also adopted by the Summit on 4 September 2002, which urges the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among the world's civilizations and peoples, irrespective of race, disabilities, religion, language, culture and tradition,

Underlining the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and universal promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, are mutually supportive, and recognizing that tolerance and respect for diversity effectively promote and are supported by, inter alia, the empowerment of women,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of resolution 55/192;[5]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the medium-term strategy for 2002-2007, which directs the work of the organization on two cross-cutting themes, namely, the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, and the contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society, and is based upon the notion that culture may contribute effectively to the reduction of poverty;

3. *Welcomes* the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity[6] adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session on 2 November 2001, and also welcomes the

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[1] Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

[2] Ibid., sect. A.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 1, annex.

[5] See A/57/226.

[6] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

main lines of the Action Plan[7] for the implementation of the Declaration appended thereto;

4. *Proclaims* 21 May the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, echoing the World Day for Cultural Development commemorated during the World Decade for Cultural Development;

5. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations:

(a) To ensure, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the implementation of the Action Plan[7] of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity;[6]

(b) To implement the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly respectively in its resolutions 53/243 A and B of 13 September 1999;

(c) To implement the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations contained in section B of General Assembly resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001;

(d) To implement relevant provisions on cultural diversity of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[3] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002;

(e) To strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in supporting national efforts of developing countries:

(i) To gain access to new technologies;

(ii) To receive help in mastering information technologies with a view to encouraging the production, safeguarding and dissemination of diversified contents in the media and global information networks and, to that end, to promote the role of public radio and television services in the development of audio-visual productions of good quality, in particular by fostering the establishment of cooperative mechanisms to facilitate their distribution;

(iii) To establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at the national and international levels, in the face of the current imbalance in the flow and exchange of cultural goods at the global level;

(f) To assist in the emergence or consolidation of cultural industries in the developing countries and, to that end, to cooperate in developing the necessary infrastructures and skills, fostering the emergence of viable local markets;

(g) To acknowledge the importance of preserving and developing cultural heritage, including through encouraging the strengthening of domestic policies in the fields of protection, incentive and promotion of the various cultures, mainly the most vulnerable;

(h) To formulate policies pertaining to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, taking into account in particular General Assembly resolution 56/8, by which the Assembly proclaimed 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;

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[7] Ibid., annex II.

(i) To assess the interconnection between culture and development and the elimination of poverty in the context of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

(j) To raise public awareness of the value and importance of cultural diversity and, in particular, to encourage through education and the media, knowledge of the positive value of cultural diversity, inter alia, as regards languages;

(k) Within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and based on the main lines of the Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, to strengthen efforts towards the prioritization of the adoption of national policies that recognize the contribution of traditional knowledge, particularly with regard to environmental protection and the management of natural resources, of fostering synergies between modern science and local knowledge and of recognizing the traditional and direct dependence on renewable resources and ecosystems, including in the form of sustainable harvesting, that is essential to the cultural, economic and physical well-being of indigenous people and their communities;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its work to promote greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development and the important role of information and communication technologies in this relationship;

7. *Also encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in conjunction, as appropriate, with other relevant United Nations bodies and multilateral development institutions, to continue to provide support, upon request, to developing countries, in particular as regards national capacity-building and access to information and communication technologies, for the implementation of international cultural conventions, including with regard to conservation of heritage and the protection of cultural property, and for the return or restitution of cultural property, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/97 of 14 December 2001, on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies and multilateral development institutions, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.